

DOCKET NO.: BELL-0105 (01031)
Application No.: 09/888,718
Office Action Dated: May 3, 2005

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated May 3, 2005, Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3 through 12, and 15 through 24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, 16, 18 and 21 have been amended. New claims 25 and 26 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,266,692 (Greenstein) in view of U.S. Patent Application 2002/0120702 (Schiavone). Claims 4, 5, 6, 8 through 12, and 18 through 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Greenstein and Schiavone in further view of U.S. Patent 5,999,932 (Paul).

Interview Summary

On June 7, 2005, Applicant's undersigned representative conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Nguyen. During that interview, the references were discussed. Examiner Nguyen agreed to consider arguments for patentability upon submission of a written response.

Applicant's undersigned representative wishes to thank Examiner Nguyen for conducting the telephonic interview and for his continued consideration of the present application.

November 4, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement

On November 4, 2004, an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was submitted in connection with this application. An initialed copy of the IDS has not been received. An initialed copy is respectfully requested.

Rejections

Claim 1 as amended is directed to a method of sorting e-mail, comprising:

- receiving an e-mail from an e-mail source;
- identifying whether the e-mail has a vendor registration code for identifying a vendor from whom the e-mail was forwarded;
- identifying whether the e-mail has a vendor registration purpose code for identifying the purpose of the e-mail;
- if the e-mail has a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source and the e-mail has a vendor registration purpose code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source, presenting the e-mail with other e-mails having vendor registration codes; and
- if the e-mail does not have a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source or the e-mail does not have a vendor registration purpose code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source, sending a message to the e-mail source.**

In order for a reference to anticipate this claim, the reference must teach all of the claimed features, including those emphasized. Independent claims 8, 16, 18 and 21 comprise similar features. Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or suggest the claimed features.

Greenstein is directed to blocking electronic mail. In the system disclosed by Greenstein, when an e-mail is received at a mail server, a field in a header of the e-mail is checked for a valid passcode. If a valid passcode is detected, the e-mail is sent to a receiver at the e-mail address. (Abstract).

Paul is directed to a system for eliminating unwanted electronic e-mail. In the system disclosed by Paul, an inclusion list is established for an e-mail user. Data from incoming e-mails is compared to the user's inclusion list. If the comparison is acceptable, the e-mail may be received by the user. (Abstract).

Schiavone is directed to a method for dynamic prioritization of e-mail. According to one embodiment, e-mails may be categorized for display. Schiavone teaches that a message identifier is read from header information received in an e-mail. (§ 50). The message identifier is compared with a set of predetermined categories associated with the e-mail

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recipient's in-box. (¶ 53, 55, Fig. 6). If the message identifier corresponds to one of the categories associated with the recipient's in-box, the e-mail is presented with e-mails in that category.(¶ 55, 56).

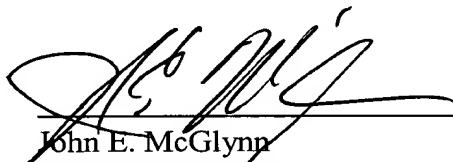
In contradistinction to the claimed features, however, neither Greenstein, Paul, nor Schiavone teach **sending a message to an e-mail source if the e-mail does not have a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source or the e-mail does not have a vendor registration purpose code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source.**

Therefore, because they do not teach a feature of the claimed combination, neither Greenstein, Paul, nor Schiavone alone or in combination anticipate or render obvious independent claims 1, 8, 16, 18, and 21. Claims 3 through 7, 9 through 12, 15, 17, 19, 20, and 22 through 24 which depend from the independent claims are patentable for the same reasons. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the prior art rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants' undersigned representative requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

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